

Wabash Plain Dealer

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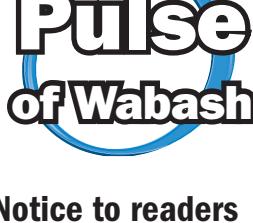


WabashPlainDealer

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WEEKEND EDITION JULY 11-12, 2020

Tomorrow's weather **78 | 64**



Notice to readers

To reduce risks to our employees and community, the Wabash Plain Dealer is closed to the public until further notice. Payments may be dropped in the mail slot or called in. For news, call 260-225-4662 or email news@wabashplaindealer.com. For advertising, call 260-225-4947 or email tcampbell@pmginmi.com. For circulation and customer support, call 260-563-2131. To bring you the most accurate information about the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, the Wabash Plain Dealer has decided to prioritize news content over sports stories since sporting events are canceled for the time being. The Wabash Plain Dealer is committed to providing the best product to its customers and appreciates the support during this time. Thank you.

Wabash County

4-H Fair schedule

- Sunday, July 12: 3:30 p.m. – Rabbit Show.
- Monday, July 13: 10 a.m. – Beef Show; and 3 p.m. – Poultry Show.
- Tuesday, July 14: 10 a.m. – Sheep Show; and noon – Meat Goat, Goat and Pygmy Goat shows, in that order.
- Wednesday, July 15: 1 p.m. – Dairy Show.
- Thursday, July 16: 10 a.m. Swine Show, beginning with showmanship.
- Saturday, July 18: 1 p.m. – Champion pictures; and 2:30 p.m. – Senior sweatshirt, Achievement and Parade of Champions.

Manchester University offers free online pharmacy camp

Manchester University has moved its summer pharmacy camp online in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. High school and college students considering pharmacy as a career are invited to attend MU Virtual Pharmacy Week, July 14 to 17. It is free, and any student with an interest in the health sciences is welcome. The deadline to sign up is July 12. More information is available at www.manchester.edu/virtual-pharmacy-week. For questions regarding MU Virtual Pharmacy Week, email pharmacy@manchester.edu.

Blood donation opportunity scheduled for July 14

The Red Cross has scheduled a blood donation opportunity from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 14 at the Wabash County 4-H Fairgrounds, 660 Gillen Ave.

Second Harvest plans tailgates at Northfield

The tailgates are planned for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays, July 15, 22 and 29 at Northfield Jr./Sr. High School, 154 W. 200 North. No IDs, proof of address or need will be required, and all will be welcome. Distribution is while

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Photos by Rob Burgess / Plain Dealer

Dozens of self-proclaimed "law enforcement enthusiasts" gathered Wednesday evening on the lawn of the Wabash County Courthouse for a "Blue Rally."

'Blue Rally' at courthouse

"Law enforcement enthusiasts" gathered Wednesday evening

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Dozens of self-proclaimed "law enforcement enthusiasts" gathered Wednesday evening on the lawn of the Wabash County Courthouse for a "Blue Rally."

One by one, the speakers atop steps of the building expressed their support for officers and assailed various leaders and groups they saw as threatening.

To begin, Tim Morbitzer, pastor at Victory Christian Fellowship, read from Romans 13, which, in part, encourages "every person be subject to the governing authorities" before leading those assembled in prayer.

Up next was Emery McClendon, a tea party organizer from Fort Wayne, who also previously served as an Allen County Sheriff's Department deputy and an Indiana State Police trooper.

"There has been a call for the defunding of our police officers," he said, as scattered boos rippled through the crowd.

"I can't hear you," he said. "There has been a call for



All current and former law enforcement and their family members assembled were asked to raise their hands, which they did to applause from the crowd.

the defunding of our county budgets, for our sheriffs."

"No!" roared the crowd.

"But we in America, we show our unlimited support and say we cannot afford to stop funding our police officers. They are here to do a job, to protect and defend. That is what they want to do and that is what we want done as Americans," he said.

"When a police officer suits up, he or she never knows what the day may bring. Your family never knows if you're going to return."

McClendon then mentioned a July 2009 incident in which Harvard University Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. was arrested for disorderly conduct by Cambridge, Massachusetts police officer Sgt. James Crowley. Gates had been trying to break into his own home, the front door of which was stuck. President Barack Obama later said police had "acted stupidly."

Afterward, Gates and Crowley were invited to the White House for what was known as the "Beer Summit."

McClendon said widespread disrespect for police officers had begun there. He then railed against Antifa and Black Lives Matter after calling House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi an "old wicked witch."

Sen. Andy Zay, R-Huntington, made his way to the microphone next.

"I stand before you a broken and confused public servant," he said.

Zay then mentioned Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Officer Breann Leath, who was killed April 9 while responding to a domestic disturbance call.

"Unfortunately, we live in a society now where some are asking our government to require the citizens to wear masks. Is it possible that maybe these masks been on for some time? Have we masked our personal responsibility of teaching our children to respect adults, to respect teachers and to respect our public servants, namely our police officers?" he said.

See RALLY, page A3

A letter to our valued readers

Dear Valued Readers:

Local newspapers have always been at the center of the community dialog.

We are committed to keeping you informed on local government matters, where your tax dollars are going and all of the challenges that face our community. The Wabash Plain Dealer is your place to go to see uplifting stories about your family, friends and neighbors.

While other communities may have alternative sources of journalism, the bulk of the reporting serving our local communities have traditionally been provided by local newspapers. It is our privilege to serve this community, and the tradition of strong, local journalism will continue.

Given these unprecedented times, however, we are making the necessary changes required to ensure the voice and existence of local journalism. Effective the week of July 13 we will change our publishing days to Wednesday and

Saturday only.

The most basic function of local journalism is to provide residents with news across a range of topics in a way that helps them stay informed and take part in the community. That won't change.

We will still provide all the local news, sports and entertainment features you have come to expect from our newspaper, and our online content will continue to be updated daily with interesting and newsworthy content.

As a print subscriber, you receive access to the online content at no cost. We encourage you to sign up today if you haven't already done so.

We remain committed to this community. North, east, south, west, past and present, we are your voice. Stay informed and connected. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Linda Kelsay, Publisher

Rob Burgess, Editor

Ronald McDonald Care Mobile to provide children with immunizations

Wabash County stops planned for July

STAFF REPORT

To keep local children on track with their immunizations, the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile will be making a few stops in Wabash County in July, according to Leslie Megison, media and community relations specialist for Parkview Wabash Hospital.

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile is a doctor's office on wheels – delivering Parkview Physicians Group – Pediatrics providers to communities throughout northeast Indiana. While the Care Mobile typically offers an array of health care services for children, it will only be providing immunizations this time.

Immunizations will be offered by appointment only and can be scheduled by calling 877-774-8632 and selecting option 2. To maintain social distancing, only one child and their parent

guardian will be allowed in the Care Mobile at a time, and a tent will be on site for those waiting. Parents and children age 2 and up will need to wear a face mask.

Those without a mask will be provided one upon arrival.

The Care Mobile delivers no-charge services to families without medical insurance. However, families with medical insurance are still welcome to make an appointment and their insurance will be billed for services.

The following Wabash County locations have been announced:

- Tuesday, July 14 at Wabash County YMCA, 500 S. Cass St.
- Monday, July 20 and Tuesday, July 21 at Walmart, 1601 N. Cass St.
- Wednesday, July 29 at Manchester Jr./Sr. High School, One Squire Drive, North Manchester.

North Manchester mural funds less than halfway to goal

Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership announced first artists of the regional project

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

On Monday, The Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership, in collaboration with Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne, Inc., announced KEY DETAIL and Tobias Studios are two of the muralists that have been selected for Make It Your Own Mural Fest, happening Sept. 8 to 10 across Northeast Indiana's 11 counties, according to Kate Virag, vice president of marketing and strategic communications for the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership.

Virag said additional artists, as well as the counties in which their art will be featured, will be announced in the weeks leading up to the festival.

"We've decided not to announce the locations associated with these artists quite yet, so I'm not able to share,"

See MURAL, page A3

Ind. GOP nominates Todd Rokita for attorney general

Former congressman replaces incumbent Curtis Hill on the ballot

STAFF REPORT

Following three rounds of voting on Friday, former congressman Todd Rokita was selected to be the Republican nominee for Indiana attorney general, replacing incumbent Curtis Hill on the ballot, according to Jake Oakman, director of strategic communications.



"Congratulations to our attorney general nominee Todd Rokita. Our team is organized, energized and ready to deliver victories for Gov. Eric Holcomb, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Todd Rokita and Republicans up and down the ballot in November," said Kyle Hupfer, chairman of the Indiana Republican Party.

John Westercamp was the lowest vote recipient in the first round and was dropped. Nate Harter then dropped in the second round with the lowest vote total. In the third and final round, the vote total was:

- Hill: 47.85 percent
- Rokita: 52.15 percent

"Under the circumstances of a global pandemic, we were able to replicate the traditional convention experience as close as possible. I want to thank our state committee for their leadership in altering our convention

See ROKITA, page A2

Woman charged in hit-and-run at southern Indiana protest

By CASEY SMITH
Associated Press/
Report for America

INDIANAPOLIS — An Indiana woman was charged Thursday in a hit-and-run crash that sent one woman to the hospital and caused minor injuries to a man during a southern Indiana protest over the assault of a Black man by a group of white men.

Prosecutors charged Christi Bennett, 66, with two counts of criminal recklessness, both felonies, and two counts of leaving the scene of an accident, one a felony and the other a misdemeanor, court records show. She was charged after being booked into the Monroe County Jail and released on \$500 cash bond, Monroe County Sheriff's Deputy Barry Grooms said.

Bennett's first court appearance is scheduled for July 17. She could not immediately be reached for comment.

The confrontation happened near the Monroe County Courthouse in Bloomington on Monday evening.

Twenty-nine-year-old Chasity Mottinger was injured when Bennett's red Toyota Corolla accelerated into her, launching her onto the hood, according to the probable cause affidavit. A 35-year-old man, Geoff Stewart, then grabbed the driver's side of the car and held on as the vehicle accelerated. Both were eventually flung to the ground and the car drove off. Bennett never stopped, charging documents indicate.

Authorities have not disclosed a motive for the attack.

Mottinger was knocked unconscious and cut her head. She was hospitalized, police said, although no updates have been made about her condition. Stewart had scrapes to his arms.

Stewart told The Associated Press he tried to speak with Bennett and navigate

her car through traffic after the protest ended. Seconds after he approached her car, Bennett revved it forward, he said.

Bennett, who is white, has previously been convicted of other felonies, including stalking, according to court records.

The protesters had gathered Monday to demand arrests in an assault on Vauhx Booker, a civil rights activist and member of the Monroe County Human Rights Commission, by a group of white men at Monroe Lake near Bloomington over the Fourth of July weekend. Booker said the men pinned him against a tree, shouted racial slurs and one of them threatened to "get a noose."

The FBI has said it's investigating the reported assault. Monroe County First Deputy Prosecutor Jeff Kehr said Thursday afternoon that the prosecutor's office is still reviewing the Booker case.

Honeywell Ladies Scramble League releases results from last 2 weeks

Another scramble to be held Tuesday, July 14

STAFF REPORT

The Honeywell Ladies Scramble League has announced the results of the last two weeks, according to Lana Garber, secretary.

On Tuesday, June 30, the Honeywell Ladies Scramble League met with an 18-hole scramble. The winning score of 54 was scored by the team of Brenda Mosier, Sue Gray, Mary Jo McClelland and Shirley Walter. Second with a 57 was Garber, Susan Dawes, Pam Reynolds and Judi Shriner. Loretta Cornwell, Kay Peas, Jennifer Shira and Jane Bunker came in third with a 59.

Another scramble will be held Tuesday, July 14. Sign up by 9 a.m. Monday, July 13. Newcomers are welcome.

ROKITA

From page A1

during this unprecedented time," said Hupfer.

Also at the convention, Crouch was officially renominated to be the Republican nominee for lieutenant governor. She was unopposed in the Indiana Republican State Convention.

"It should come as no surprise, but America's best lieutenant governor has officially been renominated for a second term. Congratulations Suzanne Crouch on your unanimous renomination! We're looking forward to four more years of the Holcomb-Crouch team," said Hupfer.

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Local News, Local Deals

5-Day Weather Summary

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Partly Cloudy 86 / 67	Scattered T-storms 78 / 64	Partly Cloudy 80 / 65	Partly Cloudy 85 / 72	Chance T-storms 83 / 74
Last 7/12	New 7/20	First 7/27	Full 8/3	

Sun and Moon

Today's sunset 9:20 p.m.

Tomorrow's sunrise 6:27 a.m.

Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see partly cloudy skies with a slight chance of showers, high temperature of 86°, humidity of 52%. West wind 7 to 10 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with a 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms, overnight low of 67°. West wind 1 to 8 mph.

Young employees not working hard enough

DEAR HARRIETTE: Even during these times when so many people are out of work, I am seeing that some young people do not want to work hard. Am I wrong to say that? I have hired two recent college grads in the past two months. And – can you believe it?

– they don't show up to work, meaning to a Zoom call, on time. They arrive 10 to 20 minutes late to meetings without even an acknowledgment that they were late. I don't want to seem like a crotchety old boss, but I don't get it. I am giving them a chance to work at a time when I need their undivided attention and focus, and I'm not getting it. How can I motivate them?

– Unmotivated

DEAR UNMOTIVATED: Now is the time to teach. You say your employees are recent college grads. The transition from school to work may be more of an adjustment than they imagined. They also may not know things that you consider basic – such as how important it is to show up on time.

Write up office rules that outline specifically what your expectations are for your employees. Review them with your staff, and have them sign the document to say that they understand and accept the rules. Point out to them that in the virtual work environment, you have specific expectations, and you need them to be honored.

DEAR HARRIETTE: I'm the mother of 17- and 20-year-old sons who've both gone through non-bathing phases. I agree wholeheartedly with the mother of the 22-year-old who suggested not pushing the issue too much because it could tip him over to suicide. Our oldest lost his best friend to suicide his senior year.

Being a teenager is rough in ordinary times, but now they are really struggling. Bathing may be one of the few things he can control in a world that feels out of

time.

DEAR HARRIETTE: I'm the mother of 17- and 20-year-old sons who've both gone through non-bathing phases. I agree wholeheartedly with the mother of the 22-year-old who suggested not pushing the issue too much because it could tip him over to suicide. Our oldest lost his best friend to suicide his senior year.

Being a teenager is rough in ordinary times, but now they are really struggling. Bathing may be one of the few things he can control in a world that feels out of

control. Not bathing won't kill him. Eventually he'll come around. In the meantime, let him make his own decisions about his body.

– Another Parent of Teens

DEAR ANOTHER PARENT OF TEENS: I am so very sorry for your loss. Teen suicide is a real issue in our community, something we must all take seriously.

Of course, bathing or not doesn't hold a candle to the much bigger issue of mental health.

Emotions are running high for many people during this elongated period of sheltering at home. I have heard from many families who are trying to figure out how to support their children, particularly teenagers, during this time. I know the restric-

tions that my own teenage daughter now has to endure are the exact opposite of the freedoms we once allowed her. As a blossoming young adult, she was able to go out and be with her friends – with appropriate curfew considerations – but that has ended due to COVID-19, at least for now.

I agree that we need to listen carefully and closely to our children and do all that we can to keep them mentally, spiritually and physically healthy during this time.

Harriette Cole is a lifestyle and founder of DREAMLEAPERS, an initiative to help people access and activate their dreams. You can send questions to askharriette@harriettecole.com or c/o Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106.

Wabash Plain Dealer

99 W. Canal St.
Wabash, Ind. 46992

VOL. 162 NO. 135

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Circulation

Customer Service

Telephone Hours:

260-563-2131

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday,

8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday:

9 a.m. - noon; 1 - 5 p.m.

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Home delivery subscription rates:

Daily, 13 weeks, \$59.50.

EZ-Pay, monthly, \$18.65.

Other payment options available by calling Subscriber Services at 260-563-2131.

POSTMASTER:

Send address change to Wabash Plain Dealer, 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

There will be a \$10 early termination fee to cancel an existing subscription prior to expiration date.

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Office Hours:

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- 4 p.m.

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Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday:

8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Walk-in hours

are from 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Friday-Sunday:

Hours vary

■ Call: 260-563-2131

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(Please call in advance of your visit.)

USPS 663-940

Wabash Plain Dealer established September 1858

Published Tuesdays through Saturdays (except on postal holidays) by Paxton Media Group, by the Wabash Plain Dealer, 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992. Periodical postage paid at Wabash, Ind.

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THURSDAY'S LOTTERIES

CASH 5

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Estimated jackpot: \$125,000

Cash4Life

Obituaries

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TeLisa Kay Larrode

Funeral Services for TeLisa Kay Larrode, 37, of Wabash, were 10 a.m., Friday, July 10, 2020, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash. Pastor Tim Morrisett officiated. Eulogies by TyLerr Fuller, her brother, and Frank Fuller, her step dad. Special music by Venus and Morgan Butcher. Pallbearers were Shawn Larrode, Eric Clifton, Chuck Nelson, TyLerr Fuller, Mike Enser, and Dwayne Butcher. Burial was in Falls Cemetery, Wabash.

David Allen Renkenberger

Funeral Services for David Allen Renkenberger, 72, of rural Wabash, were 10 a.m., Thursday, July 9, 2020, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service. Rev. Carolyn Reed officiated and Susan Vanlandingham was the musician. Burial was in the Ever Rest Cemetery. Pallbearers were Dayman Renkenberger, Jeffrey Renkenberger, Melvin Webb, Bob Leonard, Bryan Albright, and Glen Albright.

Delores June Richards

Funeral services for Delores June Richards, 87, of rural Wabash, Indiana, will be 2 p.m. Monday, July 13, 2020 at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service. Burial in Friends Cemetery, Wabash. Visitation is 1-2 p.m. Monday.

Clara M. Swan

Funeral Services for Clara M. Swan, 88, of rural Lagro, were 2 p.m., Thursday, July 9, 2020, at Lagro United Methodist Church. Rev. Melissa Rice and Rev. Larry Ray officiated. Musicians were Ken Miller and Robin Merrick. Burial was in the Lagro Cemetery. Pallbearers were Clara's sons Dave Swan, Larry Swan, Mike Swan, Bobby Swan and Randy Yarger, and Tom Brinson. Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

PENDING SERVICES

Leslie Barker: 64, of Wabash, Indiana died at 3:45 a.m. Friday, July 10, 2020 at her home. Services are pending at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

MURAL

From page A1

she said of the Wabash County mural, which is planned for a building in North Manchester. "Please rest assured that we will announce the full lineup of artists paired with their communities and walls very soon."

Virag said she encouraged Wabash County residents to donate towards the North Manchester mural, has raised \$1,050 of the \$3,000 goal.

Currently, the Regional

Partnership is working with Arts United to raise money for Make It Your Own Mural Fest through the Amplify Art! crowdfunding campaign, powered by 3Rivers Federal Credit Union. The campaign ends on Saturday, July 11 and has raised over 70 percent of the \$33,000 fundraising goals. Anyone can donate to the campaign by visiting www.artsunited.org/amplify.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

PULSE

From page A1

supplies last. We are requesting that attendees only go through the line one time so we can serve everyone. If you are walking up or coming via a vehicle too small to carry a load of food, please plan to arrive an hour after the tailgate starts. For more information, visit www.CureHunger.org.

North Manchester Center for History open once again

The North Manchester Center for History has reopened once again and has been selected by Indiana Humanities to host a Smithsonian-curated traveling exhibit called "Crossroads: Change in Rural America" as part of the Museum on Main Street program. The exhibition, which examines the evolving landscape of rural America, is on display through Friday, July 17 at 122 E. Main St., North Manchester. For more information, visit <https://museumonmainstreet.org/content/crossroads> or <https://northmanchestercenterforhistory.org>.

Manchester Jr.-Sr. High School plans graduation

Manchester Jr.-Sr. High School will plan to hold a graduation ceremony on the evening of Friday, July 17.

Christmas in July to be held at Salamonie Lake

Celebrate Christmas in July and Smokey Bear's Birthday on Saturday, July 18 at Salamonie Lake's Lost Bridge West State Recreation Area, 9214 W. Lost Bridge West, Andrews. The event begins from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. with campsite decorating sign-up and a pancake breakfast with Friends of Upper Wabash Interpretive

Services. Donations will be accepted. Corn hole registration will be at 2 p.m. The corn hole tournament will last from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. There will be a youth archery shoot from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Bike decorating will begin at 6:15 p.m. Shelter decorating will also begin 6:15 p.m. There will be a Smokey Bear parade at 6:45 p.m. The campground roads will be closed from 6:45 to 7:10 p.m. There will be a Smokey Bear party at 7 p.m. Campsite decorating judging begins at 8:30 p.m. On Sunday, July 19, the campsite decorating awards will begin at 9:30 a.m. Property entrance fees will apply. The cost will be \$7 per in-state vehicle and \$9 per out-of-state vehicle. For information, call 260-468-2127 or visit www.campIN.gov.

North Manchester Rotary grills up chicken July 18

The third annual North Manchester Rotary Grilled Chicken BBQ is set to last from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, July 18, in the parking lot in front of New Market, 1204 E. Indiana 114, North Manchester. A meal is two pieces of chicken, chips and a drink for \$7. A small meal is one piece of chicken, chips and a drink for \$5. It is drive-thru pickup only. Volunteers will wear masks and gloves. All proceeds from the event go to local organizations and causes. For more information, visit <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/4154>.

Watershed Soundscape workshop to be held at Mississinewa Lake

Join Kay Westhues for an evening "Listening to our Watershed Soundscape" workshop from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, July 18 at Mississinewa Lake. The free program begins with DNR's interpretive naturalist Cassie Kennedy's Sound Bites at 7 p.m. where participants will hear and learn

about nature's sounds. The workshop continues at 8 p.m. with Kay Westhues for an evening stroll and sound-walk at Mississinewa Lake's Miami State Recreation Area. Children under age 12 should be accompanied by an adult. The class size is limited.

Advance registration is required by calling 260-468-2127. All supplies will be provided by the artist. Property entrance fees will apply. For more information, visit dnr.IN.gov.

Northfield, Southfield commencement ceremonies set

Northfield Jr./Sr. High School's graduation date has been set for 2 p.m. Sunday, July 19 in the gymnasium, 154 W. 200 North, and graduation practice for seniors has been set for 10 a.m. Saturday, July 18 at NHS. Commencement at Southwood High School will be at 5 p.m. Sunday, July 19 at Southwood's main gymnasium, 564 Indiana 124.

Blood donation opportunity scheduled for July 21

The Red Cross has scheduled a blood donation opportunity from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 21 at the First United Methodist Church, 110 N. Cass St.

Volunteer Work Day scheduled at Salamonie

Volunteers are invited to join in a "Volunteer Work Day" to be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, July 23 at the Salamonie Lake's Interpretive and Nature Center, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. Projects may include repairs made to the shelter, raptor center; weeding, invasive species work; and clean-up in areas of the center. Volunteers should be sure to wear appropriate shoes and clothing and bring refillable water bottles and

bug spray. Those who are under 12 years old should have an adult present. To register or for more information, call 260-468-2127.

30th Annual Wabash Co. Festivals Scholarship Pageant to be held July 24

The pageant will be held Friday, July 24, in the Ford Theater at the Honeywell Center. Anyone wishing to donate toward the scholarships may do so by sending a check to Bev Vanderpool, 73 W. Sheridan St, Wabash, IN 46992. Checks should be marked "Scholarship Pageant." The Wabash County Festivals Pageant is a non-profit, therefore all donations are tax-deductible. For more information, visit the Wabash County Festivals Pageant Facebook page at www.facebook.com/wabashcountystandardsscholarshippageant, or contact any of the directors.

Wabash Kiwanis Club Pancake Day rescheduled for July 25

After being rescheduled for a second time, the Wabash Kiwanis Club will once again host its annual Pancake Day for Saturday, July 25. After a year at the Wabash Presbyterian Church, Pancake Day will return to the newly renovated Bruce Ingraham building at the Wabash County Fairgrounds, located just off of Gillen Avenue in Wabash. Pancakes, with or without blueberries, will be available, along with sausages and refreshments. Tickets will be \$8 at the door and \$7 in advance for adults 13 and older and \$5 at the door and \$4 in advance for children ages 6 to 12. Admission for the event will be free for children 5 and younger. Sponsorship opportunities for businesses are available by emailing Kiwanian Donna

ing of the tide for our whole nation," she said. "... Go vote. OK, now I'm pretty passionate about politics if you can't tell."

Finally, the last speaker, Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill took the stage.

"Fear is the enemy of freedom," he said. "We see fear being ladled out everywhere. This nation is under attack from within. From groups that will intentionally destroy us and divide us. We have racial strife. Where was this 10 years ago? It's manufactured."

Hill said he was concerned about the loss of free speech.

"If you say what's on your mind any longer and you're conservative and you love your country you get destroyed. You get nailed on social media. You lose your job. You get ostracized. Well, ladies and gentlemen, that's not what it's about in America. You stand for freedom and you take whatever comes," he said.

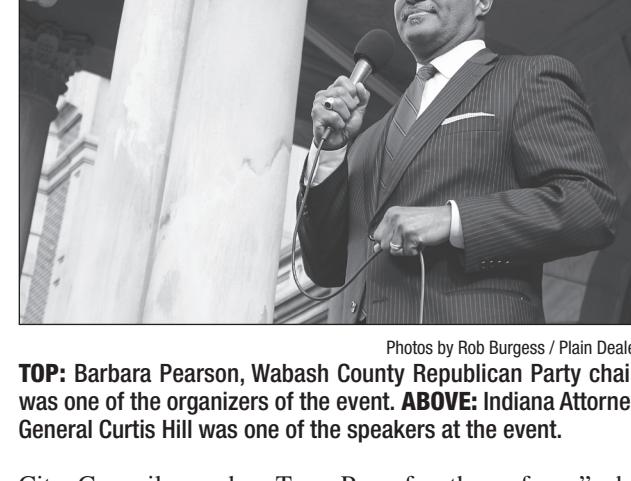
Hill then mentioned Seattle again before criticizing anarchists and Black Lives Matter, who he said was "all about the destruction of the nuclear family."

Hill said he was concerned about the lack of two-parent homes in the black community and the percentages of black people who seek abortions and are killed in black-on-black crime.

"Do all black lives matter or not? We have black genocide going on in this nation," he said. "I don't want to say that being a single parent is a recipe for disaster. We have single parents all the time who do a wonderful job at parenting, but the reality is you have a much better chance of success in this life with a mother and a father who love their children in a nuclear home."

Terry Hines, pastor of Emmanuel Free Will Baptist Church, then ended the demonstration in another prayer after a rendition of "God Bless America."

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.



TOP: Barbara Pearson, Wabash County Republican Party chair, was one of the organizers of the event. **ABOVE:** Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill was one of the speakers at the event.

City Council member Terri Brewer, who offered a heartfelt defense of area law enforcement officers.

"I work as a mental health therapist and I have done therapy with many officers out of the Indianapolis area that suffer from PTSD. I spoke with an officer just recently who is going through it pretty bad right now. Two years ago he got called out to a call where he walked into the home of his best friend and officer partner who had taken his life in the shower because he couldn't handle it any longer. Today I applaud you. When I said if you ever need to talk call me up. Get a hold of me. I'll be there to help you out in any way you can," he said.

Pearson then asked all current and former law enforcement and their family members to raise their hands, which they did to applause from the crowd.

"Remember those faces. November 3 is the turn-

Siders at donnasiders@hotmail.com or calling 260-571-1892. Sponsors would receive complimentary tickets to the event and on-site recognition in exchange for their support.

The event's Pancake Eating Contest, sponsored by Midwest Eye Consultants, will take place that day at noon. The Club's president, Mike Keaffaber, is the event's chairperson for 2020. Those who have questions or ideas regarding the event may email Keaffaber at keaffaber@msdwc.k12.in.us.

Wabash High School plans graduation, prom

Graduation has been scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, July 31 at Ford Theater at the Honeywell Center. Prom has been scheduled for 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1 in front of Wabash High School, 580 N. Miami St.

Indiana 16 to close for pavement improvements

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has closed Indiana 16 in both directions between Indiana 105 and County Line Road for pavement improvements. During the closure, the official state highway detour will follow Indiana 105, Highway 24 and Indiana 13. Indiana 16 is expected to reopen by late July. Drivers should slow down and be alert for works crews in the area of the closure.

Clark Gallery to feature 2020 themed art exhibit

The Clark Gallery in the Honeywell Center will host its 2020 Themed Art Competition titled "Dreams" through Sunday, Aug. 16. Accepted and featured entries can be picked up after the exhibit from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Aug. 17. For more information, visit HoneywellCenter.org/dreams.

Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact
your legislators:

**U.S. Sen. Todd Young,
R-Ind.**
B33 Russell Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
<http://young.senate.gov/contact>

**U.S. Sen. Mike Braun,
R-Ind.**
B85 Russell Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
<http://braun.senate.gov/>

**U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski,
R-District 2**
419 Cannon House
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

**State Sen. Andy Zay,
R-District 17**
Indiana Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

**State Rep. David Wolkens,
R-District 18**
Indiana House
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9841
h18@in.gov

To email any
Indiana lawmaker,
go to this website:
www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

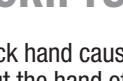
Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



DAILY SCRIPTURE

A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

He who gathers in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings shame.

— Proverbs 10:4-5

With Nov. 3 looming, Trump is more dangerous than ever

The nation could well be entering an especially dangerous period in Donald Trump's presidency. His poll numbers are embarrassingly low for an incumbent seeking reelection, even some of his loyal supporters question his handling of the coronavirus pandemic, and the economy he had planned to ride into a second term has been battered by shuttered businesses and stay-at-home orders.

All of which has made the president unhappy. He scolds the usually supportive Fox News over polling numbers he dislikes. He reportedly was angry at his campaign manager, Brad Parscale, after Trump's much ballyhooed campaign-relaunch rally in Tulsa fizzled. He continues to blast away at media outlets and journalists he doesn't like. It's immensely worrisome that revelations of a possible Russian scheme to pay a bounty to Taliban troops for killing U.S. soldiers drew outrage from Trump — not at the practice, but at the press coverage of it.

On Wednesday Trump called "the Russia Bounty story" "just another HOAX!" — even as his national security advisers were briefing members of Congress on it. Remember, Trump's initial response was deflection — his aides had not briefed him on the issue, he said, though news outlets report that the White House had been briefed. No, it's not the president's fault that the Russians engaged in such atrocious behavior, but it is his responsibility to do something about it. Which he has not.

This is where the danger bubbles

to the surface. Trump feels he needs some wins, and he has shown us for the past four years that he doesn't care how he gets them. He lies to downplay the scope of a crisis; he brags about minor achievements and takes credit for things beyond his control; he exploits the nation's racial tensions for his political advantage, making it ever harder for progress to be achieved.

He at one point forced the shutdown of the U.S. government to try to pressure Congress into approving funding to extend the wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. When that failed, he declared a bogus national emergency, then began moving around money to pay for it, sacrificing infrastructure upgrades, including housing for military families.

Most Americans say they don't want the wall, and experts argue that it ultimately will have little effect on illegal immigration, which these days tends to involve people who enter the country legally then don't leave. And it's not that hard to defeat a 30-foot wall with a 32-foot ladder. And with Election Day looming, he is accelerating construction because it appeals to his base, and he's desperate to report that he has delivered on his promise to build 450 miles of new wall by the end of the year (never mind that his promise to get Mexico to pay for it will never happen).

With deplorable cynicism, the administration has used this global health crisis to circumvent the original purpose of the asylum system and impose hard-line anti-immigration policies after many

years of stalemate in Congress. This week, the Department of Homeland Security announced it intended to pursue regulations that would let the government "consider public health concerns based on disease" when reviewing asylum applications, effectively barring admission to people from countries facing epidemics — regardless of whether the asylum-seeker has been exposed. That would allow the government, post-pandemic to continue to shut out asylum seekers.

There may be legitimate public health reasons to shut the border during a pandemic, but the Trump administration has too deep a history of lying about pretexts to get the benefit of the doubt here. Especially since the shut border did not keep the government from deporting hundreds of foreign nationals who returned home with the coronavirus, adding to the global spread and undermining the administration's claim that it was focusing on halting the march of the pandemic.

Trump is a flailing demagogue who sees his grip on power slipping away. With the Republican-controlled Senate serving as his raincoat, the shame of being impeached by the Democratic-led House of Representatives rolled off him. But the Senate's refusal to remove him from office did nothing to dispel the clear evidence that the president put his personal interests, and his reelection, ahead of the national interest. America, don't let your guard down.

This editorial was first published in the Los Angeles Times.

China extends its reign of random fear

The French revolutionaries' instrument for administering the 1793-1794 Reign of Terror was the Committee of Public Safety. Today, China's totalitarians, displaying either ignorance of this unsavory history, or arrogance in flaunting their emulation of it,

call their new instrument for suffocating Hong Kong the Commission for Safeguarding National Security. Yet again, actual tyranny is imposed in the supposed service of safety.

Acting as communists do, the leaders of China's Communist Party, which is the bone and sinew of that nation's Leninist party-state, have, less than half way

through their commitment, shredded the 1997 agreement to respect Hong Kong's autonomy until 2047. The new law mocks the rule of law, which requires sufficient specificity to give those subject to the law due notice of what is proscribed or prohibited. The new law stipulates four major offenses: separatism, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign governments. These will be defined post facto, in capricious enforcements against those whose speech is not chilled by the law's menacing vagueness. The "law" authorizing the committee to operate secretly was released at 11 p.m. Tuesday, probably to deter demonstrations on Wednesday, which was the anniversary of Beijing's 1997 agreement.

Modern technologies of communication enable the world to watch darkness descend on one of the world's most vibrant metropolises. Modern technologies of surveillance enable Beijing to refine a deep, penetrating oppression beyond what Winston Churchill could have imagined when he warned that Nazism's triumph would mean the world would "sink into the abyss of a new Dark Age made more sinister, and perhaps more protracted, by the lights of perverted science."

China's faux law, which echoes Stalin's use of randomness to intensify fear, serves two purposes: It smashes Hong Kong dissent — Leninism brooks no challenge to the party's supremacy. And it distracts attention from reports that Beijing is pioneering a sinister fusionism that melds Leninism and Stalinism with an ethno-nationalism reminiscent of fascism.

The regime reportedly is employing forced abortions and sterilization to inflict what has been called "demographic genocide" on Muslim Uighurs and other minorities. U.S. customs officials have seized some China-made beauty products perhaps made from human hair harvested in Xinjiang concentration camps. China's signatures on the U.N. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and on the Sino-British Joint Declaration guaranteeing Hong Kong's autonomy are equally constraining. Next year, President Joe Biden and a Democratic-controlled Congress should match Britain's generosity in welcoming refugees from Hong Kong's talented, free-dom-loving citizenry.

In diplomatic parlance, China is a "revisionist" power, aiming to revise the global order. In less antisemitic language, it is a piratical power whose crudeness, born of cultural condescension toward others, includes special contempt for an America distracted domestically by various hysterias, and choosing retreat abroad. President Biden's urgent foreign policy tasks will include revising the long-standing U.S. policy of "strategic ambiguity" regarding Taiwan. Beijing is demonstrating in Hong Kong "one country, two systems" actually means one country, one simmering stew of Leninism and Stalinism flavored with fascism.

The dictator Xi Jinping has repeatedly said that Taiwan's current status — nationhood in all but name — is intolerable and "should not be passed down generation after generation." A reelected Donald Trump, whose cramped notion of America's role in the world is confined to commercial bookkeeping, might swap Taiwan's freedom for increased Chinese purchases of U.S. soybeans. When at noon January 20 the U.S. ends the policy of making America marginal again, Biden should adopt strategic clarity, informing Beijing that the U.S. legal obligation to sell Taiwan weapons for self-defense entails a moral obligation to assist with that project.

The Korean War, which brought Americans into combat against Chinese troops, began 70 years ago after Dean Acheson, President Harry S. Truman's secretary of state, gave a speech in which he left South Korea outside his definition of America's defense perimeter. Beijing has drawn a "nine-dash line" to demarcate extravagant claims to sovereignty over the South China Sea — claims incompatible with international law and disdainful of the legal rights of various nations in the region. The Biden administration should draw a line that places Taiwan within the sphere of regional nations whose self-defense implicates vital U.S. interests.

Beijing should remember this: France's Committee on Public Safety was created in April 1793. Maximilien Robespierre, who prefigured Lenin, joined it on July 27. One year and a day later, devoured by forces he had fomented, he was guillotined in Paris's Place de la Revolution, now called Place de la Concorde. Beijing's totalitarians, who have murderous French precursors, may one day have a similarly disagreeable rendezvous with their handiwork.

George Will's email address is georgewill@washpost.com.



A Republican county chairman gets 'woke'

Reacting in part to protests hundreds of miles away, our Republican county chairman has asserted his "wokeness." He welcomed the resignation of a county councilman rebuked over a racial comment and nominating a black female lawyer as the replacement, and he pulled the name from an affirmative-action hat, a bipartisan one if that makes any sense.

Does this make things better? Does it heal our wounds, as they like to say?

First, this is not how it's supposed to work in a democratic republic. The electorate exists to decide such matters, not to be nullified by fiat. There is hope that the district caucus will take that into account when it votes next month on the chairman's attempt at slating (the first by a local chairman here in a couple of generations).

Second, neither skin pigment nor gender magically ensures either justice or wisdom. A casual survey of the most miserable race and crime situations in the nation finds a number of black, female officials in charge — and they have been so for a good stretch of years, for better and for worse.

Third, the nominee reportedly has never voted in a Republican primary, voted for Barack Obama and donated to Bernie Sanders — actions the chairman says should be "overlooked."

The goal, then, is not straightforward, not to simply solve a problem. It is to make a white middle-aged apparatchik feel more politically comfortable. He calculates correctly that such race pandering improves his standing

among the local elite, men and women who have grown comfortable applying 1970s thinking to whatever problems might bubble up from below.

It is a strategy wearing thin with thoughtful young blacks, not to mention the Republican rank and file. Here is Charles Love writing last week in City Magazine:

"Since the protests began, woke whites have clamored to find a way to do their part. Since they don't have many blacks in their social circles, and having conversations with blacks — the most constructive course of action — is awkward and can take time, they opt for easy, feel-good actions, most of which will have no effect on police brutality, on the quality of black schools or neighborhoods, or on black lives generally."

Love, a native of Gary and the executive director of the nonprofit Seeking Education Excellence, concludes that woke whites aren't saying that his life matters. They are saying that it's up to them to make his life matter, a different thing entirely and a contention that can be rejected as condescending and superficial.

There are more substantive approaches, several of them suggested in a recent essay by our Dr. Eric Schansberg. He expands the definition of "systemic" racism to include government programs, something for which the chairman of a political party holds at least nominal responsibility.

"Government certainly has considerable power over all of us, especially the poor and the marginalized," Schansberg begins. "And government is the most obvious part of the 'system.' So, efforts to deal with racism and systemic racism should start by looking at public policy and addressing government."

He goes on to list policies that

are damaging in this regard:

■ A system of K-12 education wherein the government has monopoly power over those in the lower income classes with the most disappointing results (despite spending an average of \$350,000 per classroom).

■ Collective bargaining for public employees that protects inflexible monopolies in schools and in police and fire departments, monopolies that makes it more difficult to manage an organization, i.e., dismiss incompetent employees.

■ Laws that prevent young people from entering the workforce, making it more expensive to hire them through higher minimum wages, and then adding a 15.3 percent tax to every dollar they earn.

■ A "war" on drugs that results in gangs of youths who, considering the above-mentioned disincentives to find legal work, are tempted to sell drugs (tax-free) and are then thrown in prison when caught.

■ A "war" on poverty beginning in the 1960s that gives more resources to lower-income women when they have children — especially if they aren't married.

■ This last policy, Schansberg notes, hits black families hard. Their two-parent households were 80 percent in every Census from 1890 to 1960. In 1965, though, 24 percent of black children and 3 percent of white children were born into single-parent households. By 1990, the percentages had risen to 64 percent of blacks and 18 percent of whites. In 2016, it was 70 percent and 28 percent.

All of which recommends reforms that a county chairman could push to really wake things up.

Craig Ladwig is editor of the quarterly Indiana Policy Review.



DAILY SCRIPTURE

A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

He who gathers in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings shame.

— Proverbs 10:4-5

Beachgoer ponders display of his naked angel tattoo

DEAR ABBY: I'm in my early 30s. I live and work in a beach town and visit the ocean often on my time off. I have a large tattoo on my side, and while it's tasteful and well done, it depicts nudity (an angel). It's always covered by a shirt and never exposed at work.

Dear Abby



While I know we're living in a progressive era of expression, including body art, I wonder if it's appropriate to go shirtless and display edgier graphic images like mine. Or could it be considered offensive to some folks who are not as open-minded?

I see plenty of other people display all kinds of ink at the beach, even with kids around. I have only had positive feedback about mine. The beachgoers I've met seem to be open-minded. To cover up or let it show — what are your thoughts? — Tatted In Florida

DEAR TATTED: If you want to get a tan, then go for it, but use sunscreen. However, not all beachgoers will be thrilled seeing a large naked angel getting roasted on the sand, so if you receive stares or critical comments, you may be more comfortable covering up.

DEAR ABBY: I am married to the kindest and most wonderful man in the world. We are happy and enjoy each other's company.

He is impotent and was taking medication to correct it while we were dating and at the beginning of our marriage. The medication gave him terrible headaches, so we agreed to just let the sexual aspect of our marriage go by the wayside. That was 10 years ago. I was OK with it until I started dreaming about having sex with random men. Yikes!

I love my husband and would never cheat on him. I'm at a loss. Please help. — Just A Dream

DEAR JUST A DREAM: Being able to talk about these dreams may help them be less troubling and probably less frequent. If discussing them with your husband might upset or threaten him — you know him better than I do — then talk with a trusted friend or relative or a licensed mental health professional so you can vent. Of one thing I am sure: The harder one tries to suppress dreams, the more often they occur.

DEAR ABBY: I have very loud joints. When I stretch out my neck, back, fingers, etc., my joints pop, click, crack, whatever you call it. They've always done this, and it isn't painful. The noise just happens when I stretch my body.

Some of my family and friends tell me they find it gross and don't want to hear it. I want to be considerate, but sometimes I pop my joints automatically without thinking or because I really need to stretch. Is making this sound rude? I don't try to make a lot of noise, but I can't help it. — Noisy Lady In Michigan

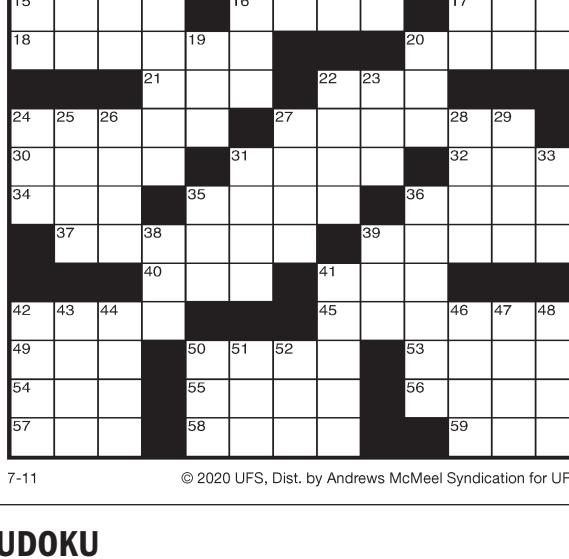
DEAR NOISY LADY: According to the Cleveland Clinic, the older a person gets, the more noise one's joints can make. This is normal. However, if there is pain along with it, it may be time to consult a doctor.

Because the noise is disconcerting to those around you, try to be mindful and refrain from doing it in their presence, or GENTLY stretch the muscles around those joints, which may eliminate your need to "pop off" entirely.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS	39	— down (quieter)
1	Lean-to	40 Long-horned ox
4	Be sorry for	41 Skillet
8	"Early Start" ainer	42 Fish bait
11	Not written	45 Out of sight
13	Ramble	49 Rage
14	Fragrant necklace	50 Goofball (hypn.)
15	Sand mandala builder	53 Relaxation
16	Depose	54 Bird beak
17	Heating fuel	55 Persia, today
18	Votes in	56 Hayworth or Rudner
20	Laid off	57 RV haven
21	Equal score	58 Iditarod terminus
22	Mayo holder	59 Maple syrup base
24	Eyewash acid	DOWN
27	Slept over	1 Golfer's target
30	Larger-than-life	2 Eurasian range
31	Earthen pot	3 Tractable
32	Library abbr.	4 Ordinary language
34	Space	5 Debtor's note
35	Roman historian	6 Some Sony products
36	Throw a party for	7 Thus far
37	Map feature	8 Lummax
38	9 Mr. Diamond	9



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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆



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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

6	4	1	9	7	2	5	3	8
8	7	3	6	4	5	9	2	1
2	9	5	8	1	3	6	7	4
7	5	8	1	6	9	3	4	2
4	3	2	5	8	7	1	6	9
9	1	6	2	3	4	7	8	5
1	8	7	4	5	6	2	9	3
5	6	9	3	2	8	4	1	7
3	2	4	7	9	1	8	5	6

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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UHESO

TNHESC

TNAFET

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Get the free JUST JUMBLE app. Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your " - " answer here: -

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ACUTE HONEY COERCE JOVIAL

Answer: Gutzon Borglum's ability to create unique sculptures allowed him to — CARVE AN NICHE

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2 BR 616 S Boots St; \$100/wk; tenant pays electric

2 BR 624 S Boots St; \$125-135/wk; basic utilities included

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WABASH COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION
WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing before the Wabash County Board of Zoning Appeals on the 28TH day of JULY, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the office of the Wabash County Plan Commission, top floor the Wabash County Court House, Wabash, Indiana.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider the application of: JASON CAMPBELL for VARIANCE #: 7 A VARIANCE FROM THE SET-BACK REQUIREMENT FOR A STRUCTURE FROM A PRIMARY COUNTY ROAD

The geographical area affected by the changes requested is generally described as: 6173 S OLD ST. RD. 15, WABASH, IN 46992; SECTION 4; TOWNSHIP 26N; RANGE 7E; PARCEL ID #85-19-04-100-030.000-005, 1.00 ACRES

A copy of the proposal is now on file in the office of the Wabash County Plan Commission and is available for public examination. Any written objections that are filed with the secretary of the Wabash County Plan Commission prior to the hearing will be considered and, at the hearing, the Wabash County Plan Commission will consider any additional comments concerning the application. The hearing may be continued from time to time as may be found necessary. NOTICE: Indiana Code 36-7-4-920 forbids any person from communicating with a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals before the hearing with the intent to influence a member's action on a matter pending before the Board.

LARRY C. THRUSH

Attorney at Law
One North Wabash
Wabash, Indiana 46992

Attorney for the Wabash

County Plan Commission

HSPAXLP.07/11/2020

HSPAXLP.07/11/2

Trump undercuts health experts – again – in schools debate

By JILL COLVIN
and MIKE STOBBE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House seating chart spoke volumes.

When the president convened a roundtable this week on how to safely reopen schools with coronavirus cases rising, the seats surrounding him were filled with parents, teachers and top White House officials, including the first and second ladies.

But the head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, usually the leader of disease-fighting efforts, was relegated to secondary seating in the back with the children of parents who had been invited to speak.

Intentional or not, it was a telling indication of the regard that President Donald Trump has for the government's top health professionals as he pushes the country to move past the coronavirus. Whatever they say, he's determined to revive the battered economy and resuscitate his reelection chances, even as U.S. hospitalizations and deaths keep climbing.

Confirmed COVID-19 cases in the U.S. hit the 3 million mark this week, with over 130,000 deaths now recorded. The surge has led to new equipment shortages as well as long lines at testing sites and delayed results.

States are responding. At midnight Friday, Nevada was to enforce new restrictions on bars and restaurants in several areas including Las Vegas and Reno after a spike in cases. And New Mexico's Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham said her state was halting indoor restaurant service, closing state parks to nonresidents and suspending autumn contact sports at schools in response to surging infections within its boundaries and neighboring Texas and Arizona.

Yet Trump paints a rosy picture of progress and ramps up his attacks on his government's own public health officials, challenging the CDC's

school-reopening guidelines and publicly undermining the nation's top infectious diseases expert, Anthony Fauci.

"Dr. Fauci is a nice man, but he's made a lot of mistakes," Trump told Fox News Channel host Sean Hannity in a call-in interview Thursday, pointing, in part, to changes in guidance on mask-wearing over time.

In his latest beef with the CDC, the president accused the Atlanta-based federal agency of "asking schools to do very impractical things" in order to reopen. The recommended measures include spacing students' desks 6 feet apart, staggering start and arrival times, and teaching kids effective hygiene measures to try to prevent infections.

After Trump's scolding comment, Vice President Mike Pence announced Wednesday that the CDC would be "issuing new guidance" that would "give all-new tools to our schools."

But the agency's director, Robert Redfield, pushed back amid criticism that he was bowing to pressure from the president.

"I want to clarify, really what we're providing is different reference documents.

... It's not a revision of the guidelines," he said the next day. Indeed, draft documents obtained by The Associated Press seem to confirm Redfield's assertion, though officials stress the drafts are still under review.

But the flap has touched a nerve amid increasing concern over how the administration has sidelined, muzzled and seemed to derail the CDC. Repeatedly now, the administration has shelved or altered CDC draft guidance, or even told the agency to take down guidance it has already posted. That includes in early March, when administration officials overruled CDC doctors who wanted to recommend that elderly and physically fragile Americans be advised not to fly on commercial airlines because of the pandemic.

In May, officials removed some recommendations for reopening religious events hours after posting them, deleting guidance that discouraged choir gatherings and shared communion cups.

"Here we have at this time the 21st century's biggest public health crisis, and the CDC has been shunted aside," said William Schaffner, a pro-

fessor of preventive medicine and infectious diseases at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville. They have "been sidelined and their voices – their clear, consistent, transparent voices – have been muffled or even completely silenced."

Not so, said Dr. Deborah Birx, the task force's response coordinator. She said those states should instead close bars, end indoor dining and limit gatherings "back down to our phase one recommendation, which was 10 or less."

Experts warn the U.S. has suffered from a lack of clear,

nia and Arizona where cases are rising, was simple: "We believe the takeaway from this for every American, particularly in those states that are impacted, is: Keep doing what you're doing."

Many outside the White House also fault Redfield, who was appointed two years ago, for failing to adequately assert himself and his agency. Redfield does not have a close personal relationship with the president and has rubbed some at the White House the wrong way.

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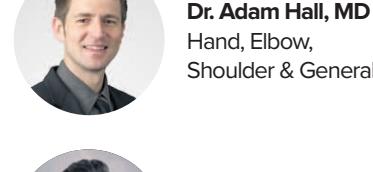
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